



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Office of the Attorney General Wants Jessup Health Club to Halt Selling Memberships**

**Baltimore, MD (March 16, 2016)** --The Maryland Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division is seeking to block a Jessup health club from selling memberships until it complies with the state's Health Club law. The Division has filed administrative charges against Anytime Fitness on Washington Boulevard, and its corporate parent, Legacy Fitness, for failing to register with the state and for failing to protect prepayments as required by law.

The charges allege that the business and its owner sold health club memberships but was not registered, and that the surety bond that protected consumer deposits had lapsed and has not been replaced.

Under Maryland law, health clubs, self-defense schools, and weight loss centers are required to register prior to selling services. The law also requires facilities to post a bond or other security with the Division if they collect more than three months of payment in advance from members or charge an initial fee of more than \$200.00.

The charges seek an order requiring the owner and business to cease and desist from selling health club services in Maryland unless they have complied with the registration requirements and to return all payments collected in violation of the Consumer Protection Act and Health Club Law. The Division is also seeking payment of civil penalties and costs.

Consumers can visit the [Attorney General's website](http://AttorneyGeneral'swebsite) at or call 410-576-6350 before joining a health club, weight loss center or self-defense school to see if it is properly registered and bonded. The website also contains tips for consumers considering joining health clubs, weight loss centers or karate schools.

A public hearing on the charges is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on April 25 at the Office of Administrative Hearings, 11101 Gilroy Road, Hunt Valley.